

Patent  
Attorney Docket No.: 50-0061RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AUG 15 2006

In re Application of:  
Timothy B. Rhyne, *et al.*

Confirmation No: 7141

Serial No: 10/782,999

Filed: February 20, 2004

Examiner: Stormer, Russell D.

Group Art No: 3617

Customer No.: 27215

For: Non-Pneumatic Tire

## DECLARATION OF DAVID COWART

1. My name is David Cowart and I am a licensed professional engineer in the State of South Carolina. I design wheels and wheel components. I have been an employee of Michelin for 16 years and have worked in the tire industry for 16 years.

2. I have a Masters of Science degree in mechanical engineering.

3. I have reviewed the Specification of the patent application 10/782,999 and the drawing that was submitted as FIG. 16.

4. I have read the description of a mechanical attachment of the spokes to the wheel provided in ¶ 71 of the Specification as originally filed that states that the "web spokes 150 could be mechanically attached to the wheel, for example, by providing an enlarged portion on the inner end of each web spoke that engages a slot in the wheel."

5. I have also reviewed claim 4 as originally filed with the Specification, which discloses exactly the same description of a mechanical attachment of the web spokes to the wheel as described in the Specification as shown in the preceding paragraph.

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6. In my opinion, the descriptions of ¶ 71 and claim 4 are sufficiently specific and detailed to describe to me an embodiment as shown in FIG. 16. The spoke 115 is shown having an enlarged portion 151 on the inner end of the web spoke 150 that engages in a slot 152 in the wheel 10.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

SIGNATURE:

  
DAVID COWARTDATE: August 15, 2006